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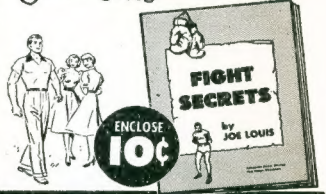

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HE WAS TOO MUCH OF A YELLOW-STREAKED COYOTE TO SHOW HIS FACE IN THE DAYTIME... AND BESIDES, HIS LUCK WAS ALL BAD THEN! WHENEVER HE TRIED SOMETHING UNDER THE LIGHT OF THE SUN, HE FAILED... BUT THE ONE TIME HE WORKED OUT OKAY, IT WAS UNDER COVER OF DARKNESS. SO HUTCH SIMPSON DECIDED THAT, FROM NOW ON...

THEY RAID by NIGHT!

GOT HIM, BOYS! GET THIS CELL DOOR OPEN!

IT'S OPEN, HUTCH! WE'RE ON OUR WAY!

YOU GUYS'LL NEVER GET AWAY WITH THIS!

K-781

DICK AYERS

THIS IS THE FIRST THING THAT'S EVER WORKED *RIGHT* FOR ME, AND FROM NOW ON, IT'LL *KEEP* WORKIN' RIGHT!

LET'S MAKE IT FAST, HUTCH! OUR HOSSES ARE STILL OUTSIDE!

DON'T BOSS ME, TOD! I DREAMED THIS UP, SO I'M THE RAMROD OF THIS OUTFIT NOW! UNDERSTOOD?

SURE, HUTCH!

JAIL

HUTCH SIMPSON HAD REASON TO BE ELATED ON THIS COLD NOVEMBER NIGHT! AFTER BLUNDERING THROUGH ONE HOLD-UP AFTER ANOTHER, HE HAD WORKED THE JAIL-BREAK PERFECTLY!

LOOK AT THIS DARK NIGHT! IT'S A GOOD-LUCK SIGN, THAT'S WHAT IT IS! AND THAT'S WHEN I'M GONNA WORK FROM NOW ON... *AT NIGHT!*

THEY HID OUT IN THE DISTANT HILLS, ON *LOOKOUT RIDGE*, WHERE THEY COULD SEE ANY ONCOMING POSSE FOR MILES...

FOLKS WORK HARD AND THEY'RE TIRED AT NIGHT! WELL, *WE'LL* SLEEP *DAYS* AND BE WIDE AWAKE AND READY AT *NIGHT*!

SOUNDS MIGHTY FINE, HUTCH! JUST SAY THE WORD AN' WE'LL FOLLOW!

THERE'S A BANK IN LAWSON CITY THAT'S JUST ITCHIN' TO BE TAKEN! WE'LL TAKE IT TOMORROW NIGHT! DAWN'S COMIN' UP! WE'LL HIT THE SACK AND REST UP! TONIGHT, WE'LL BE READY!

TAKING TURNS KEEPING GUARD, THE GANG SLEPT THROUGHOUT THE DAY... THEIR ONLY ENEMY THE COLD...

WE'LL SLEEP IN GOOD HOTELS FROM NOW ON, AFTER THIS RAID! WE GOT NUTHIN' TO WORRY ABOUT! WE GOT THE DEPUTY'S GUNS AND GOOD FAST HOSSES... AND MY GOOD LUCK! WE CAN'T MISS!

WITH THE COVER OF NIGHT, THE GANG SWEPT DOWN FROM THE HILLS TOWARD LAWSON CITY, THE FREEZING COLD ENVELOPING THEM LIKE A BLANKET OF ICE!

I NEVER SAW IT SO COLD!

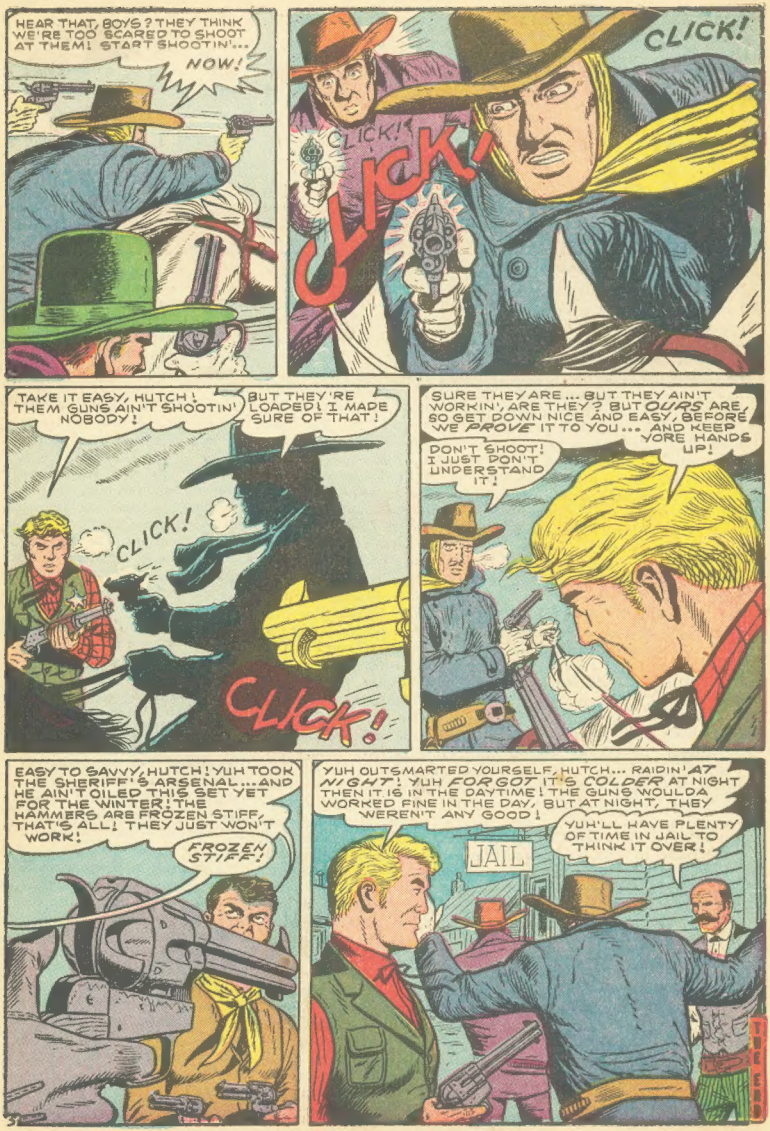
THAT'S GOOD, TOD! THIS WAY THE HONEST FOLK'LL ALL BE IN THEIR NICE WARM BEDS, AFRAID TO STIR...

LOOKIT THAT! ALL NICE AND QUIET! LET'S KEEP IT THAT WAY! WE DON'T WANNA SHOOT, IF WE CAN AVOID IT!

BANK

IT'S SO COLD, THE GUARD'S ASLEEP! GET BACK UNDER COVER, BOYS! I'LL MAKE A LITTLE NOISE TO BRING HIM OUT!
HUTCH, YOU'RE RIGHT SMART! GLAD WE PICKED YOU FOR OUR BOSS-MAN!
HUTCH SCRATCHED ON THE DOOR AND THE GUARD, STILL SHIVERING AND STIFF WITH COLD, CAME TO THE DOOR...
THOUGHT I HEARD SOMETHING... BUT I DON'T SEE NOTHING!
TIE HIM UP, BOYS; AND LET'S GO!
TOLD YUH OUR LUCK WAS GOOD AT NIGHT! NOW FOR THE MONEY!
NO MONEY ANYPLACE, HUTCH! MUST BE ALL IN THIS SAFE!
OKAY, GET IT OPEN!
I DON'T KNOW HOW! DO YOU?
WHADDAYA THINK I AM, A SAFE-CRACKER? IT'S A LITTLE ONE! LET'S GET IT OUTA HERE, AND WE'LL BLAST IT OPEN BACK AT THE HIDEOUT!
WHAT'S THE MATTER? TOO HEAVY FOR YUH?
IT'S OUR HANDS, HUTCH! THEY'RE FROZEN STIFF! WE CAN'T HOLD ONTO NUTHIN'!

OKAY! JUST TAKE IT EASY! WE'LL MAKE IT!
MY... MY FOOT! I THINK IT'S GOT FROST BITE!
BANK
IT'S FROST-BITTEN! I CAN'T WALK ANY MORE!
LOOK OUT! THE SAFE!
BANK
YUH BIG OX! THAT NOISE'LL WAKE UP THE WHOLE TOWN!
CRASH!
MY LUCK'S GONE SOUR AGAIN!
IT WAS THE COLD DID IT, HUTCH! BUT WE CAN STILL SHOOT OUR WAY OUTA THIS!
WE'LL HAVE TO! HERE COME THE TOWNFOLK!
WAIT'LL WE GET RIGHT ON TOP OF 'EM AND THEN LET 'EM HAVE IT!
IT'S HUTCH SIMPSON!
HOLD YORE FIRE, BOYS! WE'LL TAKE 'EM WITHOUT A SHOT!


HEAR THAT, BOYS? THEY THINK WE'RE TOO SCARED TO SHOOT AT THEM! START SHOOTIN'...
NOW!
CLICK!
CLICK!
CLICK!
TAKE IT EASY, HUTCH! THEM GUNS AIN'T SHOOTIN'.
BUT THEY'RE LOADED! I MADE SURE OF THAT!
CLICK!
CLICK!
SURE THEY ARE... BUT THEY AIN'T WORKIN', ARE THEY? BUT OURS ARE, SO GET DOWN NICE AND EASY, BEFORE WE PROVE IT TO YOU... AND KEEP YORE HANDS UP!
DON'T SHOOT! I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND IT!
EASY TO SAVVY, HUTCH! YUH TOOK THE SHERIFF'S ARSENAL... AND HE AIN'T OILED THIS SET YET FOR THE WINTER! THE HAMMERS ARE FROZEN STIFF, THAT'S ALL! THEY JUST WON'T WORK!
FROZEN STIFF!
YUH OUTSMARTED YOURSELF, HUTCH... RAIDIN' AT NIGHT! YUH FORGOT IT'S COLDER AT NIGHT THEN IT IS IN THE DAYTIME! THE GUNS WOULDA WORKED FINE IN THE DAY, BUT AT NIGHT, THEY WEREN'T ANY GOOD!
YUH'LL HAVE PLENTY OF TIME IN JAIL TO THINK IT OVER!
JAIL
THE END

SHERIFF BOB FINNERTY carefully inspected his fly-rod, broke it at the ferrules and packed it away in his suitcase. This he followed with a couple of changes of shirts and socks, some old and faded levis and a copy of a fisherman's almanac. He was just locking up his collection of brightly-colored flies when there was a knock at the door of his bachelor house and his deputy Chard Fulton walked in.

Fulton stared at the equipment on Finnerty's bed and scratched his head.

"So you're really goin'," he said. "You're really takin' a vacation."

"I sure am," the Sheriff said and handed his tin star to Chard. "You're lawman around here for the next four days."

"But this is kinda short notice," Chard stammered..

Finnerty chuckled and fixed him with a gleaming eye.

"Chard," he began, "you've been sayin' so long that a Sheriff's job is the most excitin' thing you ever heard of, that I've got no hesitation in entrustin' the peace of Callingford County to your well-known, trusty and quick-drawin' right hand for four days and three nights."

"Go along with you," Chard said, reddening. "There hasn't been a hog-leg fired in this valley except at roundup time for five years."

"Right," Finnerty said promptly. "You got some idea a head lawman spends his time mostly in the saddle drawin' beads on owlhoots. And this, despite the fact that in the year since you've been my deputy I've had to call on you only twice . . . and then just to hold down the desk for a day at a time. Now you'll learn . . . at least I hope so . . . that a real Sheriff's job is behind a desk and usin' his brains rather than a six-shooter." He glanced with amusement at Chard who had ignored what he'd been saying and was busy pinning the bigger star next to his own deputy's badge. Then he locked the suitcase, hefted it, led the way outside, locked his front door and tossed the suitcase into a buckboard, after which he climbed aboard.

"It's me for fantail trout," he said, and winked. "See you Monday morning. Keep that tin star polished. Geeup!" He cracked the whip smartly and drove off, leaving Chard Fulton dreamily fingering the Sheriff's tin star.

Fulton rode back into town on his cayuse secretly letting his imagination run riot. All his life he had wanted to be a successful and, eventually, a legendary Sheriff. He interest in the matter had finally led Bob Finnerty to put his enthusiasm to work as a part-time deputy. In the space of half an hour, in his mind's eye, Chard had tracked down and cornered a desperate gang of cattle-rustling galoots, jailed a horde of owlhoots and been given a testimonial dinner for heroism by the Callingford County Chamber of Commerce. Sheriff Bob Finnerty, he decided, as he dismounted in front of the Sheriff's office in town and ostentatiously walked inside to put his feet up on the desk, had no romance in his soul.

Five hours later, nothing had happened. He spent an hour doing paper work Finnerty had left for him, and then, having finished a review of the town's police complaints for the past six months, dozed off in the swivel chair. He was awakened by a slap of a huge hand on the desk.

"Huh?" he said, sitting upright and blinking his eyes.

A large citizen confronted him . . . Homer Bleaks, a cow rancher from out near the sand Flats. Homer trembled with rage.

"I want action," he demanded. "Where's Bob?"

"Fishin'," Chard said importantly. "I'm Sheriff while he's away." He touched the coveted tin star.

"So you're Sheriff," Bleaks ground out. "All right!" He tossed a bright, glittering object on the desk. "I'm the victim of thieves and I demand the arrest of Tom Parker!"

"What for?" Chard asked, glancing at the object. It was the broken section of a boot rowel.

"There was an attempt made on my chicken coops last night," Bleaks raged. "And I found this rowel next to the coops. Plain as day what happened. Tom came over, tried to bust into the coops; then the chickens set up a howl and he had to run for it, probably caught this rowel in rocks and busted it loose. By the time I got dressed and out there was nobody there."

Chard considered, thinking

CONTINUED BEFORE LAST STORY

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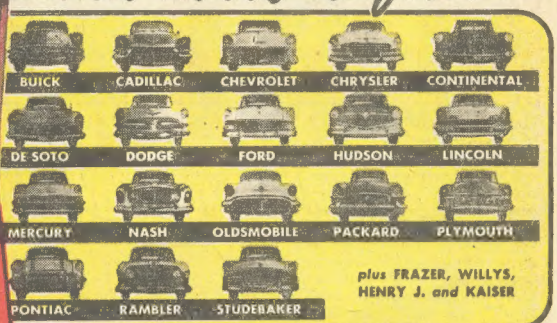

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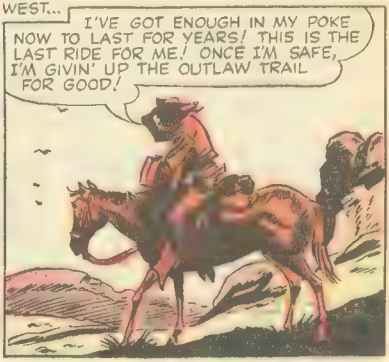
THE STAGE WAS CARRYING FORTY THOUSAND IN CURRENCY...A TEMPTING PRIZE IN A COUNTRY WHERE ROAMING OUTLAWS STRUCK WITH LIGHTNING SPEED!

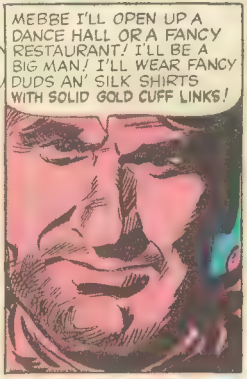
the LAST RIDE

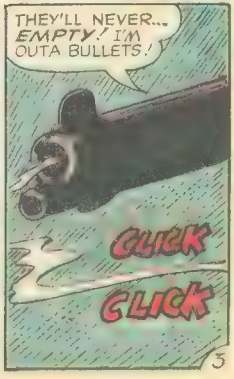
NOW I'VE... OWWW!
THEN, WITH A THUDDING FLURRY OF SPEED THE OUTLAW DREW ALONGSIDE...
SLOW 'ER DOWN.. PRONTO!
I'M STOPPIN'! DON'T SHOOT!
THIS IS THE PAYROLL FOR FORT STEVENS! YOU'LL BE BRINGIN' THE WHOLE ARMY ON YORE NECK!
I'LL WORRY ABOUT THAT!
NOW GIT DOWN FROM THERE AND START UNHITCHIN' THEM HOSSES!
WHAT? WHY, YOU CAN'T...
THEY GRUMBLED AND FUMED, BUT THEY DID AS THEY WERE TOLD...
IT AIN'T FAIR! YOU GOT THE MONEY!
SHUT UP AN GIT THEM TRACES UNBUCKLED.. FAST!
ENJOY YORE WALK INTO TOWN, BOYS! I WANT ALL THE HEADSTART I C'N GET! HA, HA, HA, HA!
THE FOLLOWING DAY, WHEN WORD REACHED THEM, A BODY OF TROOPS WAS SENT OUT FROM THE FORT...
FINDING OUR MAN WON'T BE EASY, SERGEANT!
MAYBE NOT, LIEUTENANT... BUT WE'RE SURE GONNA TRY!

MEANWHILE, THE OUTLAW HEADED FURTHER WEST...



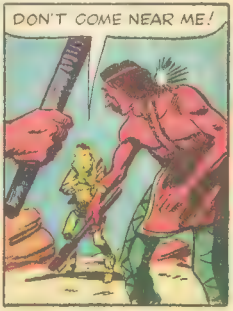
LATE THE FOLLOWING DAY, AS HE PAUSED BY A STREAM...


MEBBE I'LL OPEN UP A DANCE HALL OR A FANCY RESTAURANT! I'LL BE A BIG MAN! I'LL WEAR FANCY DUDS AN' SILK SHIRTS WITH SOLID GOLD CUFF LINKS!



THEN, MATERIALIZING SUDDENLY FROM BEHIND THEIR COVER...

BUT THE LITTLE FIGURES SLIPPED FORWARD SOUNDLESSLY, UNMINDFUL OF HIS CRIES...



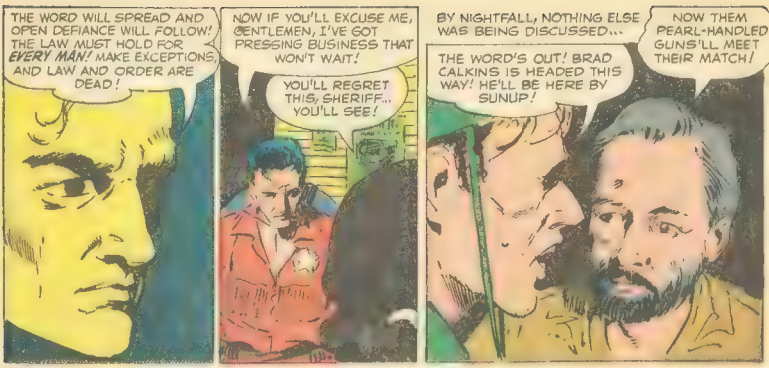
BUT THEN THE AIR WAS SUDDENLY SPLIT BY THUNDEROUS BLASTS...

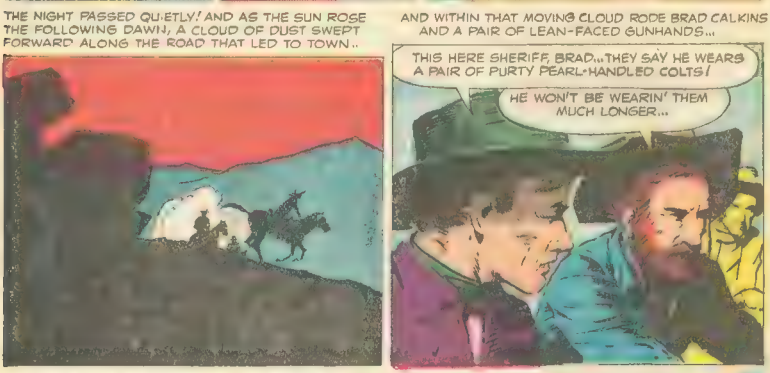
AND MOMENTS LATER, POWERFUL ARMS WERE PULLING HIM TO HIS FEET...

HE WAS THE SHERIFF, GUARDIAN OF THE LAW! ON HIS SHIRT WAS PINNED THE FIVE-POINTED STAR, AND SLUNG LOW ACROSS HIS HIPS HUNG A HEAVY PAIR OF...

PEARL-HANDLED COLTS!

HOW ABOUT IT, CALKINS... YOU AIMIN' TO GIVE ME ANY MORE TROUBLE?
I WON'T... BUT SOMEONE ELSE WILL!
WAIT TILL MY BROTHER BRAD GETS WIND OF THIS! HE'LL GET YUH DOWN TO SIZE!
THAT'S ENOUGH TALK! GET MOVIN'!
BY SUNDOWN, THE WHOLE TOWN WAS BUZZING...
BRAD CALKINS WON'T STAND BY WHILE HIS KID BROTHER IS IN JAIL!
THIS TIME THE SHERIFF HAS OVER-RATED HIS HAND!
WE'LL ALL SUFFER! BRAD WILL TAKE THIS TOWN APART!
SOMEONE OUGHTTA DO SOMETHIN'! SOMEONE SHOULD TALK TO THE SHERIFF!
SOMEONE WAS TALKING TO THE SHERIFF, AND THE SHERIFF LISTENED..
THERE'S NO POINT INVITING TROUBLE, SHERIFF! THE LAD DID DISTURB THE PEACE, BUT YOU COULD LEVY A SMALL FINE AND TURN HIM LOOSE!
I COULD, MR BURROWS... BUT I WON'T!
HE NOT ONLY BROKE AN ORDINANCE, BUT HE DEFIED THIS TOWN'S LAW OFFICER! THE BOOK CALLS FOR THIRTY DAYS AN' THAT'S WHAT HE'LL GET!
YOU'RE NEW HERE, SHERIFF! BRAD CALKINS IS A NOTORIOUS OUTLAW! HE'LL DO TERRIBLE THINGS! THE TOWN WILL SUFFER!
IT'LL SUFFER MORE IF I RELEASE YOUNG CALKINS...

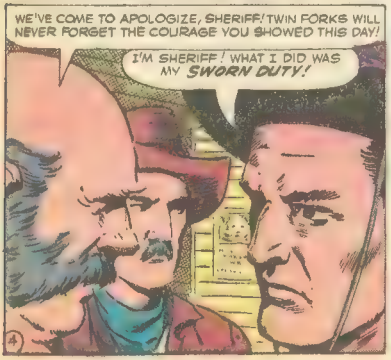

THE WORD WILL SPREAD AND OPEN DEFIANCE WILL FOLLOW! THE LAW MUST HOLD FOR -EVERY MAN! MAKE EXCEPTIONS AND LAW AND ORDER ARE DEAD!
NOW IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, GENTLEMEN, I'VE GOT PRESSING BUSINESS THAT WON'T WAIT!
YOU'LL REGRET THIS, SHERIFF... YOU'LL SEE!
BY NIGHTFALL, NOTHING ELSE WAS BEING DISCUSSED...
THE WORD'S OUT! BRAD CALKINS IS HEADED THIS WAY! HE'LL BE HERE BY SUNUP!
NOW THEM PEARL-HANDLED GUNS'LL MEET THEIR MATCH!


THE NIGHT PASSED QUIETLY! AND AS THE SUN ROSE THE FOLLOWING DAWN, A CLOUD OF DUST SWEPT FORWARD ALONG THE ROAD THAT LED TO TOWN..
AND WITHIN THAT MOVING CLOUD RODE BRAD CALKINS AND A PAIR OF LEAN-FACED GUNHANDS...
THIS HERE SHERIFF, BRAD...THEY SAY HE WEARS A PAIR OF PURTY PEARL-HANDLED COLTS!
HE WON'T BE WEARIN' THEM MUCH LONGER...

BUT WITH SUDDEN AUTHORITY A VOICE RANG OUT...
HOLD ON! THAT'S FAR ENOUGH!
HUH?
STATE YORE BUSINESS IN TWIN FORKS, OR RIDE BACK FROM WHERE YOU CAME!
YOU KNOW MY BUSINESS, SHERIFF...
3

HIS ANSWER WAS A THUNDERING BLAST ...AND THEIR HORSES REARED WITH JOLTING FORCE...

THAT SAME AFTERNOON, WITH HIS PRISONERS SAFELY BEHIND BARS, THE SHERIFF HAD CALLERS...


WE'VE COME TO APOLOGIZE, SHERIFF! TWIN FORKS WILL NEVER FORGET THE COURAGE YOU SHOWED THIS DAY!
I'M SHERIFF! WHAT I DID WAS MY SWORN DUTY!
4

ACROSS HIS HIPS, HE WORE A PAIR OF PEARL-HANDLED COLTS...SYMBOL OF HIS PROFESSION; A SHERIFF, DEFENDER OF THE PEACE, GUARDIAN OF THE LAW...

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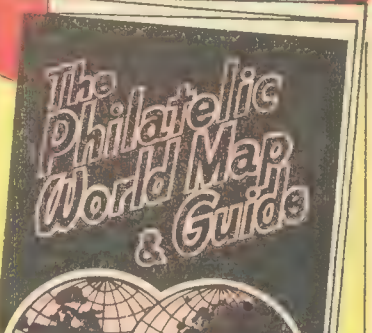

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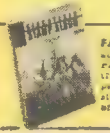

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THE GRAY DAWN BROKE OVER THE WESTERN PLAINS CASTING IT'S REVEALING LIGHT OVER THE THINGS OF THE NIGHT THAT WERE STILL STIRRING... THE RATTLESNAKES, THE COYOTES, AND THE BADMEN OF HAWK POTTER'S GANG ON THEIR WAY TO...

AMBUSH in COYOTE COUNTY!

I NEVER SAW HAWK SO MAD! HE'S FIT TO BE TIED!

AND WHY NOT? HIM AND HIS OLD PARDNER, NED WARBLEY, HOLD UP THE STAGE AND TAKE THE LOOT! THEN NED HIGHTAILS IT OUT OF MUSQUITO COUNTY WITH ALL THE MONEY...WITH A **NEW** GANG!

GOOD THING I OVERHEARD HIM SAY HE WAS HEADIN' INTO COYOTE COUNTY BY WAY OF THE RIVER ROAD!

K 783

ALL RIGHT, BOYS, THAT'S ENOUGH GAB! I'M MIGHTY GRATEFUL TO YUH, SHAW, FER TELLIN' ME ABOUT NED! I'LL PAY YUH OFF IN GOLD AFTER I PAY HIM OFF!

THE RIVER ROAD! TWISTING, TREACHEROUS...A WINDING PATH ALONG THE CLIFFSIDE WITH A THOUSAND-FOOT DROP TO THE RIVER BELOW...

YUH SAY HE'LL BE BY AT HIGH NOON?

THAT'S WHAT I RECKON, HAWK! AND WE'LL BE READY FOR 'EM, HUH?

BUT ANOTHER WAS ON THE TRAIL TO THE AMBUSH IN COYOTE COUNTY .A LONE RIDER WITH A TIN STAR...
TAKE IT EASY, OL' HORSE! WE'RE GOIN' NO PLACE, YOU AN' ME! LOOKS LIKE WE REACHED THE END OF OUR TRAIL... TWO OLD TRAIL-HANDS!
THIS WAS DEPUTY TIM SHERRY, THE MAN ASSIGNED TO PROTECT THE ROBBED STAGECOACH . BUT WHO HAD ARRIVED TOO LATE TO PREVENT IT .AND NOW WAS RIDING TO TURN IN HIS TIN STAR...
WHEN A DEPUTY FALLS DOWN ON THE JOB, IT'S TIME TO CALL IT QUITS AND LEAVE THE TOUGH WORK TO YOUNGER MEN! I'M THROUGH AS A LAWMAN! FROM NOW ON, IT'S THE PEACEFUL PATH FOR ME!
BUT AT THAT MOMENT, A SERIES OF SHOTS HIT THE EARLY MORNING CALM! THE OLD DEPUTY'S HEART BEAT AS RAPIDLY AS THAT OF A WAR HORSE AT THE SOUND OF BUGLES!
BLAM! CRACK!
SOUNDS LIKE TROUBLE, HOSS! I'M STILL WEARIN' THE TIN STAR, SO LET'S RIDE!
HAWK! AND HE'S BATTLIN' HIS OUTLAW PARDNER NED WARBLEY! WHEN OUTLAWS FALL OUT, THAT IS THE BEST TIME FOR THE LAW TO STEP IN!
IT'S DEPUTY TIM SHERRY!
THAT OLD GALOOT? GO GET HIM, SHAW! HE AIN'T NO GOOD ANY MORE! LOOKIT HOW EASY WE GOT AWAY FROM HIM AT THE ROBBERY!
I'M COMIN' AFTER YUH, TIM! YUH WANNA QUIT NOW WHILE YOU'RE ALIVE, OR..
HE'S TAUNTIN' ME! HE'S TELLIN' ME I'M TOO OLD TO FIGHT HIM...AND MAYBE HE'S RIGHT! MAYBE I GOT NO RIGHT TO BE PASSIN' MYSELF OFF AS A LAWMAN...
2

SUDDENLY, TIM RUSHED OUT, BOTH GUNS BLAZING!
ALL RIGHT! MAYBE I AM FINISHED! BUT I'M GONNA DIE WITH MY GUNS HOT!
THE OLD GEEZER'S GOIN' LOCO!
BLAM! BAM!
IN HIS HASTE TO GET OUT OF THE WAY OF THE DESPERATE LAWMAN, SHAW SLIPPED, AND...
HELP!
IT'S SHAW!
THAT DEPUTY GOT HIM! YOU TWO BOYS GO UP AN' GET HIM! TIM AIN'T GOT IT IN HIS HEART TO BE A GUNFIGHTER NO MORE! MOVE!
NO MORE HEART, EH? LOOKIT THAT!
COME ON, YUH RATTLERS!
LEMME OUTA HERE! I AIN'T FIGHTIN' HIM!
MIKE! WATCH IT! YOU'RE TRIPPIN' ME UP!
I'M FALLIN'! HELP!
LEGGO O'ME, YUH DUMB MULE!
WHAT'S GOIN ON UP THERE?
MUST BE A WHOLE POSSE KNOCKIN' OFF HAWK'S BOYS ONE BY ONE! DON'T SHOW OUR FACES OR THEY'LL GET US, TOO!
HOLD IT, HAWK. RIGHT THERE! I GOT YOUR BOYS AND YOU. I'M GETTIN' NED AND HIS GANG.. AND THE MONEY YUH STOLE!
YUH AIN'T MAN ENOUGH NO MORE, TIM! I'M GONNA TAKE CARE OF YUH!
3

IN THAT TERRIBLE SPLIT SECOND, TIM HAD TO DECIDE! SHOULD HE SHOOT THE OUTLAW NOW, KNOWING HE COULDN'T FACE HIM IN A GUNFIGHT? OR SHOULD HE DIE THE MAN HE HAD ALWAYS BEEN... HONORABLE, DOING HIS SWORN DUTY...

TURN AROUND AND SHOOT, HAWK! I'M GIVIN' YUH THAT CHANCE!

YO'RE A FOOL, DEPUTY! THIS IS YORE FINISH!

BUT WHEN A MAN'S AIM IS NO LONGER TRUE, THERE ARE OTHER WAYS TO ACT! WITH THE INSTINCTS OF THE OLD-TIMER, TIM DROPPED TO HIS STOMACH WITH THE BULLETS WHINING OVER HIS HEAD!

I GOTCHA, TIM!

BLAM!

NOT YET, HAWK!

I'M COMIN' AFTER YUH, TIM! AND I'M GONNA KEEP SHOOTIN' TILL I HIT YUH!

AT THAT DARK MOMENT, ANOTHER OLD WARRIOR HEARD THE CALL OF BATTLE AND RESPONDED!

WHY, THAT CRITTER'S TRYIN' TO SPOIL MY AIM! I'LL BLAST HIM FIRST!

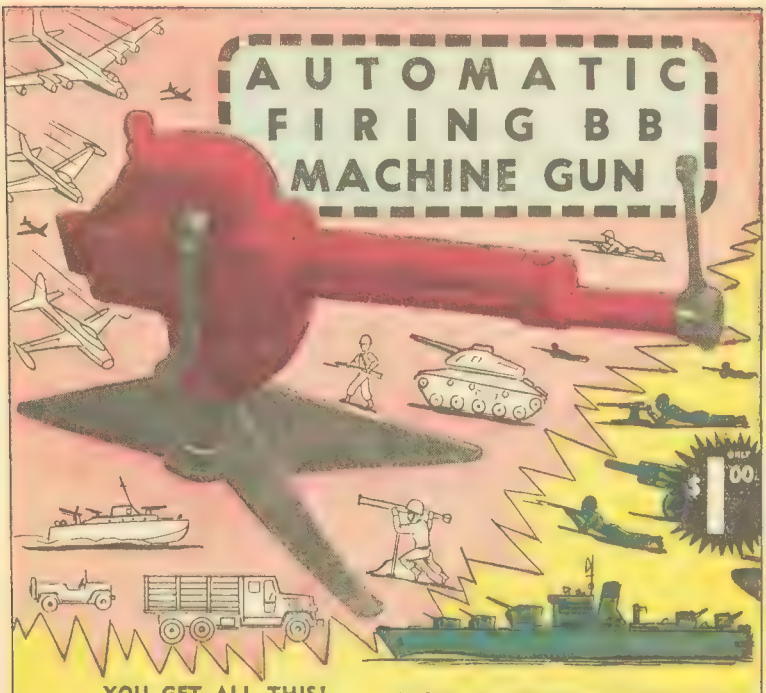
NOBODY'S GONNA HURT THAT PARDNER O'MINE! DROP 'EM, HAWK!

FIGHTIN' ME WITH YORE HANDS? YOU'RE EVEN MORE LOCO'N I THOUGHT!

MAYBE I CAN'T RIDE SO FAST OR SHOOT SO STRAIGHT ANY MORE ...BUT I STILL GOT SOME STRENGTH IN MY FISTS!

YOU CAN DO TO ME WHATEVER YUH WANT, BUT WHEN YUH TRY TO GUN DOWN MY HORSE, YOU'RE GOIN' OVERBOARD, YUH BUZZARD!
OOOFF!!
I'M STILL GOOD ENOUGH TO BRING IN YOU AND YORE MEN... AFTER I FISH YUH OUT OF THE RIVER!
NED! YOU AND YORE BOYS HEAR ME? I'M COMIN' AFTER YUH... LIKE I CAME AFTER HAWK AND HIS MEN!
N-NEVER MIND, DEPUTY! WE'LL GIVE UP TO YOU AND YORE POSSE! WE DON'T HANKER FOR A BATH THIS EARLY IN THE SEASON!
AIN'T NO POSSE, NED! IT'S ONLY ME!
WELL, I'LL BE...
AFTER TIM HAD BROUGHT IN BOTH GANGS, HE CONTINUED HIS JOURNEY TO THE OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF...
I GOT WORD YOU WERE COMIN' TO TURN IN YOUR STAR, TIM...
I'M NOT TURNIN' IT IN, SHERIFF!
I JUST WANT A NEW ONE! ONE O' HAWK'S BULLETS NICKED IT PRETTY BAD! I FIGURE I'LL HANG AROUND FOR A WHILE! I'M NOT BAD FOR AN OLD CODGER!
I'M GLAD, TIM! LONG AS THERE ARE BAD-MEN, THE WEST CAN ALWAYS USE LAW-MEN LIKE YOU!
THE END
5

AUTOMATIC FIRING BB MACHINE GUN



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deeply. He was still thinking when Tom Parker walked in, breathing heavily. Tom, a small but broadly-built man glared at Homer Bleaks; then he addressed himself to Chard, tossing something on the desk.

"Somebody tried to bust into my jack-rabbit pens last night," he said. "Somebody," he emphasized, "by the name of Homer Bleaks!"

"Me?" Homer roared. He hovered over the shorter man like a mountain about to avalanche. "Why you galoot, that's impossible!"

"It is, hey?" Tom grunted. "Read the name on that belt buckle, Chard . . . say, where's Bob Finnerty?"

"Fishin'," Chard said gloomily. He read a name inscribed on the belt buckle: "'Homer Bleaks'." Then he picked up the rowel. "Got your Broken W brand mark on it, Tom. Homer says you tried to steal his chickens last night and dropped this rowel. Now *you* say that Homer tried to steal into your jack-rabbit pens last night, leavin' this belt buckle." He paused. "If it's true both ways, you must have crossed tracks the same night."

"It isn't true!" Homer blasted. "I had that buckle . . . dunno where the belt went . . . and the belt out dryin' on the clothesline after washin' it with saddle-soap!"

"Don't believe it!" Tom snapped. "As for that rowel, it busted off yesterday afternoon in the ranch yard . . . and I never did find it!"

"Ha!" Homer grunted with vast disbelief.

Chard raised a hand.

"Both of you want to swear out warrants for each other?" he asked. "If you do, I'm bound to slap you both in jail until I solve this case."

"Uh, you go ahead and solve it," Homer said, hurriedly leaving.

"My sentiments exactly," Tom said, quickly following.

Chard sat at the desk in dejection. This wasn't his idea of what a Sheriff should be doing. Solving petty thievery cases!

"Huh," he said, and aimlessly riffled through the pages of the Sheriff's monthly blotter after noting the complaints. Suddenly he sat up, staring at something he'd noticed. He read more closely. Slowly, a smile spread over the acting Sheriff's face. He waited for about an hour, then phoned Tom Parker. After that he phoned Homer Bleaks.

About six o'clock, shortly after supper, Chard rode out to Homer Bleaks' place, picking up Tom Parker on the way. He

stopped at Tom's ranch house about fifteen minutes to make sure something had been done. Then both men rode on to the Bleaks spread.

"Can't figure you out," Tom remarked as they rode into the Bleaks ranch yard.

"You will," Chard said.

Homer was waiting for them.

"I don't believe it," he said, after the other two had dismounted. "It can't be true!"

"It better be true," Chard said. "If it isn't . . . and my test fails . . . you'll either have to withdraw charges against each other or press them."

They took up their post out behind Homer's chicken coops. In the distance, from the cattle corrals, came an occasional loud snort. Slowly, the hours passed. It was a cloudless night. The moon came up and rose steadily toward the zenith. Near ten o'clock Chard stirred.

"Listen!" he said.

They heard the whirring of wings. Then a huge black shape crossed the moon and dropped like a plummet earthward. An instant later came a scratching at the door of the chicken coops and then a furious uproar as the fowls within protested vigorously.

Chard leaped forward, a huge gunny sack in his arms. He raised it high and then brought it down. A loud squawk followed and then a sound of scuffling. Tom and Homer came dashing up just as Chard finished tying the neck of the sack. Chard pointed to it.

"Giant buzzard," he said. "That's what the attempted thief was. Buzzards go after bright objects as well as animals. This one picked up your rowel at night, Tom, and dropped it in Homer's yard, after trying to bust into the chicken coop. Then he grabbed your belt, Homer, off the clothesline and ate the leather part on his way to Tom's rabbit pens . . . where he dropped the buckle."

"Now how'd you figure it might have been a buzzard?" Homer asked.

"Oh that was easy," Chard chuckled, "after I looked at Bob Finnerty's complaint book. He'd listed both of you for maintaining open compost heaps . . . and *they* attract buzzards, too." He shook the bag. "That's why I had Tom cover his compost heap with gravel . . . so our little galoot here would fly over to Homer's instead." Chard chuckled. "Homer, you cover up that compost heap. I reckon Bob was right . . . a real Sheriff solves more cases *out* of the saddle than *in* it!"

THE END G-909

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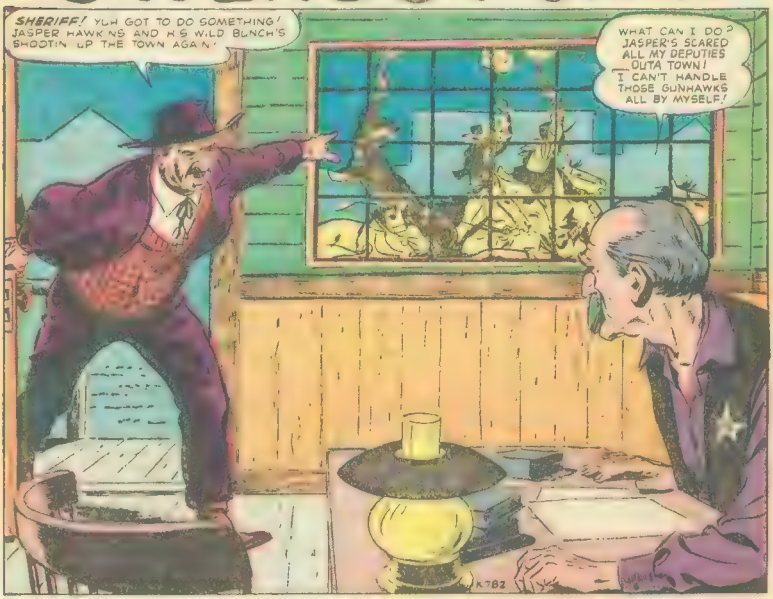
BEWARE THE SOUND OF THUNDERING HOOFS! LOOK OUT FOR THE LIGHTNING DRAW OF SIX-SHOOTERS THAT SPELL OUT TROUBLE FOR OUTLAWS! HIDE, OUTLAWS! TAKE TO THE HILLS, BADMEN! BEWARE...

THE MAN FROM OWLHOOT CITY!


SHERIFF! YUH GOT TO DO SOMETHING! JASPER HAWKINS AND HIS WILD BUNCH'S SHOOTIN' UP THE TOWN AGAIN!
WHAT CAN I DO? JASPER'S SCARED ALL MY DEPUTIES OUTA TOWN! I CAN'T HANDLE THOSE GUNHAWKS ALL BY MYSELF!
K-782

THIS TOWN AIN'T FIT FOR DECENT CITIZENS NO MORE! OUR FAMILIES AIN'T SAFE IN THE STREETS SHERIFF, YOU GOT TO DO SOMETHING
I SENT FOR THE MAN FROM OWLHOOT CITY!

"THE MAN FROM OWLHOOT CITY? YUH MEAN THE GUNFIGHTER WHO CLEANED OUT THE TOUGHEST TOWN WEST OF THE RIO GRANDE? HE'S COMIN' HERE?
THAT'S RIGHT! AND WHEN HE DOES GET HERE, HE'LL MAKE SURE JASPER DON'T CAUSE ANY MORE TROUBLE!

THE WORD SOON SPREAD LIKE BRUSHFIRE TO ALL THE PEOPLE OF CAYUSE COUNTY.. THE GOOD..
THEY SAY HE'S THE DEADEST SHOT IN THE WEST!
"THE MAN FROM OWLHOOT CITY IS COMIN'!
AND THE BAD...
WHAT'S THE MAN'S NAME, ANYHOW?
"THE MAN FROM OWLHOOT CITY," EH? WELL, I BEEN ACHIN' TO TANGLE WITH THAT HOMBRE!
NOBODY KNOWS! THEY JUST CALL HIM "THE MAN FROM OWLHOOT CITY"! BUT WHEN HE DRAWS ON ME, I'M BEATIN' HIM TO IT! AND IF I DON'T...
WE WILL!
JUST LET HIM SHOW HIS UGLY FACE AROUND THESE PARTS, THAT'S ALL!
SO JASPER HAWKINS LAID HIS PLANS FOR THE COMING OF "THE MAN FROM OWLHOOT CITY".. AND PLACED GUARDS TO WATCH FOR HIM...
A FEW DAYS LATER, THE COACH FROM JACKSON CITY ROLLED INTO TOWN... FROM THE EAST, NOT FROM THE WESTERLY DIRECTION OF OWLHOOT CITY...
NOTHIN' THERE THAT LOOKS DANGEROUS, JASPER! JUST SOME REGULAR FOLK... AND THAT YOUNG DUDE!
I DON'T TRUST ANYBODY! KEEP AN EYE ON THAT DUDE!
HOWDY, MISS! I'M BOSS-MAN IN THESE PARTS, AND I BID YUH WELCOME! NAME'S JASPER HAWKINS!
HEY! WHAT'S THE IDEA?
EASY, DUDE!
2

LET GO OF ME, YOU BIG OX!
AND YOU STOP POINTING THAT THING AT ME!
WHY, YOU IF YOU WAS CARRYIN' A GUN, I'D...
I AM NOW! WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO, MISTER?
HEY! YUM TOOK MY SHOOTIN' IRON!
LOOK OUT! A DUDE LIKE YOU DON'T KNOW NUTHIN' 'BOUT HANDLIN' A GUN! YOU'RE LIABLE TO SHOOT SOMEBODY!
ISN'T THAT WHAT A GUN IS FOR?
I'LL GET HIM, BOSS!
WHAT DID YOU SAY? WHOOPS! IT WENT OFF!
TAKE IT EASY, MISTER! PUT THAT GUN DOWN!
SURE! I OH OH! IT'S ST... GOING OFF! HOW DO YOU STOP THIS THING?
GET YORE FINGER OFF'N THE TRIGGER!
I CAN'T! MY FINGER'S FROZEN TO THE TRIGGER!
LET'S GIT OUTA HERE! THIS DUDE'S LIABLE TO KILL US RIGHT QUICK!
3

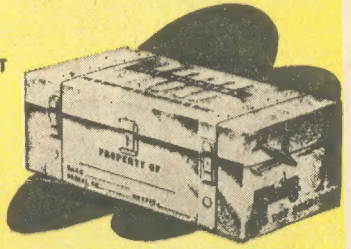
WHEW! LOOKS LIKE THE THINGS FINALLY EMPTY!
I DON'T KNOW WHO YUH ARE, MISTER, BUT YUH BETTER GIT OUTA TOWN, BEFORE JASPER COMES BACK. HE DON'T LIKE TO BE MADE A FOOL OF THAT WAY!
DON'T YOU HAVE ANY LAW IN THIS TOWN TO CONTAIN MEN LIKE THAT?
ONLY ONE MAN CAN HANDLE JASPER HAWKINS, AND THAT'S THE MAN FROM GALLOWAY CITY!
OH, A WILD HORSE!
HE AIN'T WILD! DON'T SCARE HIM BY YELLIN' THAT WAY!
..EGGO O' HIM!
I'M HANGING ON ONLY IN SELF-DEFENSE!
HELP!
THAT FOOL DUDE! NOW WE GOTTA GO AFTER HIM!
JASPER, LOOK! IT'S THE DUDE!
...ON A RUNAWAY HOSS! WELL, I'M FIXIN' HIM! NO MAN CAN MAKE ME RUN OFF IN FRONT O' THE WHOLE TOWN!
ALL RIGHT, YOU! RAISE 'EM!
SURE!

YOU MEAN LIKE THIS?
WHOOPS! I'M FALLING OFF!
WHILE I'M AT IT, I MIGHT AS WELL TAKE YOU BACK TO TO TOWN! SEEMS TO ME, A COUPLE OF FELLOWS LIKE YOU SHOULDN'T BE RUNNING AROUND LOOSE!
WELL, I'LL BE
THAT'S HOW HE ALWAYS HANDLES GALOOTS! HE MAKES IT LOOK SO EASY.. JUST AS IF HE WASN'T DOING A THING AT ALL!
HERB YOU ARE, SHERIFF! LOCK 'EM UP FOR DISTURBING THE PEACE! DID YOU SIGN THE HOTEL REGISTER, DEAR?
I WAS WAITING FOR YOU, SWEETHEART!
REGISTER
The Mann From Owlhoot City... and Wife

100 TOY SOLDIERS, MADE OF DURABLE PLASTIC, EACH ON ITS OWN BASE, MEASURING UP TO 4½"!

★ FUN TO SHOW
★ FUN TO TRADE
★ FUN TO COLLECT

PACKED in this FOOTLOCKER
TOY STORAGE BOX



EACH FOOTLOCKER CONTAINS:

4 Tanks	8 Officers
4 Jeeps	8 Waves
4 Battleships	8 Wacs
4 Cruisers	4 Bombers
4 Sailors	4 Trucks
4 Riflemen	8 Jet Planes
8 Machinegunners	8 Cannon
8 Sharpshooters	4 Bazookamen
4 Infantrymen	4 Marksmen

JOSELY CO., DEPT. TMC2
1472 Broadway
New York 36, N.Y.
NO C.O.D.'s

HERE'S MY $1.25 !

Rush the TOY SOLDIERS TO ME!

Name .....

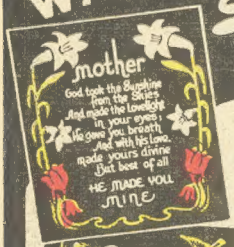
Address .....

City ..... State .....

Canada and foreign orders send $1.50 postal money order.

DO YOU WANT SPENDING MONEY?

Sell these popular Patriotic and Religious Mottoes



SEND US NO MONEY IN ADVANCE

Just write and ask us to send you 40 of these beautiful glittering mottoes which the public likes so well. Sell them easily and quickly to your friends and neighbors for only 35¢ each. At the end of 14 days send back, if you wish, all mottoes you have not sold, and send us only 25¢ for each you have sold. You keep all the rest of the money.

IF YOU SELL 25, YOU KEEP $2.50

IF YOU SELL 30, YOU KEEP $3.00

IF YOU SELL ALL 40 YOU KEEP $4.00

REMEMBER: No money is needed in advance. You take no risks. You can return all the mottoes you do not sell. You do not pay shipping costs or split your commission. You keep all the profit on each sale.

WRITE FOR COMPLETE DETAILS TO

STEPHENS CREDIT SALES
Dept. MS P. O. Box 1004
Nashville , Tennessee

My Pal!

Stop being a SKINNY Weakling like I was

IN 10 MINUTES of FUN A DAY YOU CAN DO ALL I DID

GAIN 25 lbs. of HANDSOME POWER-PACKED MUSCLES all over!

IMPROVE YOUR HE-MAN LOOKS 1000%

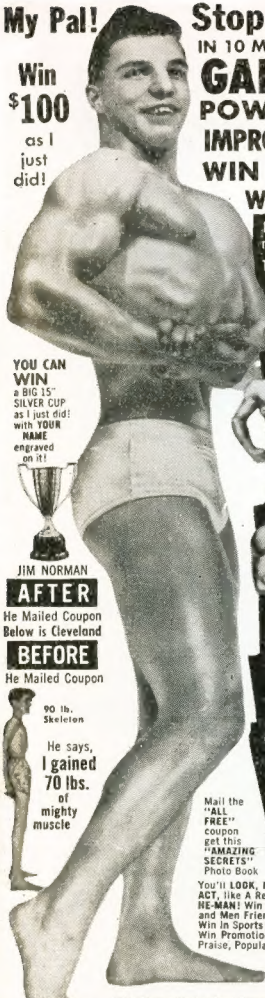
WIN NEW STRENGTH

for money-making work!
for WINNING at all SPORTS!

WIN NEW POPULARITY

Win NEW FRIENDS, BOYS & GIRLS
NEW CHANCES for BUSINESS SUCCESS

Win $100 as I just did!



YOU CAN WIN a BIG 15" SILVER CUP as I just did! with YOUR NAME engraved on it!

JIM NORMAN

AFTER

He Mailed Coupon Below is Cleveland

BEFORE

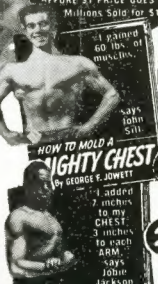
He Mailed Coupon

He says, **I gained 70 lbs.** of mighty muscle

How did I do ALL This? I mailed the Coupon and got These **5** PICTURE-PACKED HE MAN COURSES Which YOU can NOW get FREE

BEFORE $1 PRICE GOES BACK

Millions Sold for $1


I gained 60 lbs. of muscles.
says John Sil...
HOW TO MOLD A MIGHTY CHEST
By GEORGE F. JOWETT
I added 7 inches to my CHEST 3 inches to each ARM. says John Jackson
HOW TO MOLD A MIGHTY ARM
By GEORGE F. JOWETT
HOW TO MOLD A MIGHTY BACK
By GEORGE F. JOWETT
HOW TO MOLD A MIGHTY GRIP
By GEORGE F. JOWETT
HOW TO MOLD MIGHTY LEGS
By GEORGE F. JOWETT

GET ALL 5 FREE

"I'm PROUD to be seen with Jim NOW! Everybody admires his build," says Nellie. "Jim can lift the front of a 2700 lb. car. He amazes his friends!"

You'll be A Real ATHLETE in ALL SPORTS Soon after YOU mail Coupon.

Jim is a WINNER in ALL SPORTS NOW. YOU will be, too, soon.

2 COME ON, PAL, NOW YOU give me **10** PLEASANT MINUTES A DAY IN YOUR OWN HOME like Jim did and I'll give YOU A NEW HE-MAN BODY for your OLD SKELETON FRAME

NO! I don't care how skinny or flabby you are I'll make you OVER by the SAME method I turned myself from a wreck to the strongest of the strong. Why can't I do for you what I did for MANY THOUSANDS of skinny fellows like You?

3

Develop YOUR 520 MUSCLES Gain Pounds, INCHES FAST!

YES! You'll see INCHES of MIGHTY MUSCLE added to your ARMS and CHEST. Your BACK and SHOULDERS broadened. From head to heels you'll gain SIZE, POWER, SPEED. You'll be A WINNER in EVERYTHING you tackle.

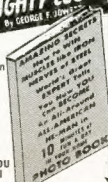
"Congratulations, John! At last you mailed the coupon as EVERY MAN should. Soon You'll be as big and strong as I am," says Jim Norman to John Luckus

4

5

Mail the "ALL FREE" coupon get this "AMAZING SECRETS" Photo Book

You'll LOOK, FEEL, ACT, like A Real HE-MAN! Win Women and Men Friends. Win in Sports! Win Promotion, Praise, Popularity.



This BOOK will also show You HOW YOU CAN WIN $100.00 and a BIG 15" tall SILVER TROPHY (Your Name On It)

Mail Coupon in Time for FREE offer and PRIZES!

LAST CHANCE—ALL FREE COUPON

1. FIVE COURSES 2. MUSCLE METER 3. Photo Book of STRONG MEN

Tell Me How To WIN $100, etc.

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Dear George. Please mail to me FREE "Jowett's Photo Book of Strong Men and a Muscle Meter, plus all 5 HE-MAN Building Courses. 1. How to Build a Mighty Chest. 2. How to Build a Mighty Arm. 3. How to Build a Mighty Grip. 4. How to Build a Mighty Back. 5. How to Build Mighty Legs. Now all in One Volume "How to become a Mighty HE-MAN." ENCLOSED FIND 10c FOR POSTAGE AND HANDLING (no C.O.D.'s).

NAME _____ AGE _____

PLEASE PRINT OR WRITE PLAINLY

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZONE _____ STATE _____

SAVES you YEARS and DOLLARS!!!

Which of these Prizes Can We Send You?

MANY OTHER NO COST PRIZES

You can have any one of these wonderful prizes (shown above) at absolutely no cost to you. They are given without cost for selling just one 30-pack order of American Christmas Cards at 25c a pack. Each pack contains 5 cards and envelopes. Our big prize book sent with your first order of cards shows over 80 No Cost prizes to choose from. Amazingly easy; all you do is mail the coupon, sell your cards, get your prize.

BE FIRST IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Everybody wants these new colorful, high-quality Christmas Cards—they've been sold from coast to coast for 38 years. You'll sell them quickly to your family, friends and neighbors. Many boys and girls sell their cards in one day and get their prize at once. You can, too.

SEND NO MONEY - WE TRUST YOU

Paste coupon on postcard or mail in envelope. Send no money. Your colorful cards and free prize book will be mailed to you at once. **American Specialty Company, Dept. 8, Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Our 38th Year**

CUT OUT AND MAIL NOW

AMERICAN SPECIALTY COMPANY
Dept. 8, Lancaster, Pennsylvania

Please send me your big prize book and one 30-pack order of American Christmas Cards. I will sell them at 25c a pack, send you the money and choose my prize.

Name_____

Address_____

Town_____ State_____